

CHAPTER XXI

JAFFREY BICENTENNIAL • 1973

At the annual Town Meeting on the second Tuesday of March 1970, town fathers Francis L. LaFreniere, William W. Torrey, and Alfred J. Christian brought two articles before the voters of Jaffrey that would lay the groundwork for the biggest celebration the town had ever witnessed. The first was article #17, "To see if the Town will vote to authorize and direct the Moderator with the consent and approval of the Selectmen, within three months, to appoint a Bicentennial Celebration Committee to draft plans and proposals for a 1973 Bicentennial Celebration and report the same to the 1971 Town Meeting, the size of the same to be at the discretion of the Moderator in consultation with the Selectmen." The second article #18, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to create a Bicentennial Celebration Capital Reserve Fund, and to instruct the Budget Committee to consider this as an annual budget request thereafter for the next three years." The two articles were approved unanimously by the voters.

The selectmen appointed the following men as the official Jaffrey Bicentennial Committee: Glenn A. Hunt, chairman; Homer J. Belletete and George W. Gordon, cochairmen. During the next three years, following many long evenings at the Civic Center (which was chosen as headquarters for public meetings) and countless hours spent on their own working with various subcommittees, the committee had forged a plan for a year-long celebration of the town's 200th birthday.

The schedule of events for the year 1973 were as follows:

- January 7 Church services, all churches
- January 20 Firemen's Ball, selection of the Bicentennial Queen.
Chosen was Jeanne Duval, along with her court of honor, Paula Aucoin and Maryann Gordon
- February 18 Snowmobile Races: Sponsor - Monadnock Snow-Moles Club
- February 25 Stock Car Races on the Ice: Sponsor - Monadnock Ice Racing Club

- March 3,4 Dog Sled Races: Sponsors - Jaffrey and Peterborough Lions Club
- April 7,8 Maple Sugar Open House: Sponsor - Local maple sugar producers
- April 8 Open House, Jaffrey Public Library, National Library Week, recognition given to Evelyn Ruffle, librarian since 1944
- April 16 St. Patrick Bicentennial Fair: Sponsor - St. Patrick Parents Association
- July 4 Band Concert, Gordon Bissell Legion Band of Keene: Sponsor-Jaffrey Historical Society
- July 5,6,7 Carnival: Sponsor - Jaffrey Lions Club
- July 13 Amos Fortune Forum
- July 14 Melville Academy Open House: Sponsor - Village Improvement Society
- July 14, 15 Cannon Shoot Weekend: Sponsor - Monadnock Rod and Gun Club
- July 20 Amos Fortune Forum
- July 21 Melville Academy Open House
- July 22 Antique Auto and Gasoline Engine Show, Jaffrey Center Common
- July 26 Street Dance: Sponsor - St. Patrick Parish Council
- July 27 Amos Fortune Forum
- August 1 Annual Summer Fair: Sponsor-First Church of Jaffrey
- August 3 Amos Fortune Forum
- August 4 Melville Academy Open House
- August 8 Slides of Jaffrey Past and Present: Sponsor - Jaffrey Historical Society
- August 10 Amos Fortune Forum
- August 11 Lions Club Auction
- August 11 Old-Fashioned Square Dance: Sponsor- Village Improvement Society
- August 11 Melville Academy Open House
- August 12 Dillon Art Exhibit, Civic Center
- August 13,14 A Fashion Show of Yesteryear: Sponsor-Jaffrey Historical Society

- August 17 State of New Hampshire Sweepstakes Drawing
- August 17 Bicentennial Banquet: Sponsor - John Humiston
American Legion Post #11
- August 17 Amos Fortune Forum, "Jaffrey 200 Years." Dr.
Theodore Greene
- August 18 Bicentennial Parade
- August 18 Commemorative Coin Auction
- August 18 Beard Judging: Sponsors - The Brothers of the
Brush
- August 18 Bicentennial Ball: Sponsor - Jaffrey Community
League
- August 19 Ecumenical Church Services - Jaffrey Center
Meetinghouse
- August 19 Fireworks Display - Silver Ranch Airpark: Spon-
sors - Brothers of the Brush



Bicentennial Parade

It should be noted at this time that the parade on August 18, 1973, was and probably will be, the biggest parade that Jaffrey has ever seen. It commenced at the Common in Jaffrey Center and ended two and a half hours later at Humiston Field. The parade chairman was Arthur Faford, and it was he who arranged for Jaffrey to be the very first town in New Hampshire to host the eight-



Bicentennial Ball



*Glenn Hunt
crowns Jeanne
Duval Bicenten-
nial Queen*

horse hitch of the Budweiser Clydesdales. The parade consisted of more than a dozen divisions, made up of 110 floats and 17 marching bands. Marching units came from far and wide, such as the



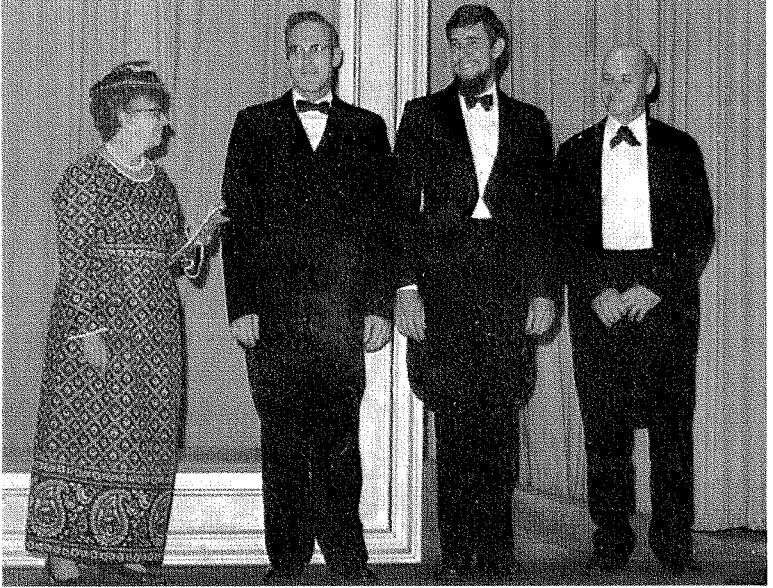
Budweiser Clydesdales

Fort Devens Army Honor Guard and Marching Band, the Concord Massachusetts Minute Men, and the Nayaug Ancient Fife and Drum Corps from South Glastonbury, Connecticut. Parade Marshal Rene Forcier stepped off from Jaffrey Center at 10:00 A.M. and by 10:45 the first units were coming through town. Spectators, six deep, lined the entire parade route. Richard Noyes, former owner of the *Monadnock Ledger*, was master of ceremonies at the reviewing stand.

Native son Dr. Donald J. Williams of Boulder, Colorado, was the keynote speaker. He spoke on the world of science and how it related to the history of Jaffrey. Along with Noyes and Dr. Williams and his wife Priscilla, on the reviewing stand were Jaffrey selectmen Francis L. LaFreniere,



Belletetes' float



*Fashion show at the meetinghouse: Louise Belletete,
James Balentine, Henry Gallup, Alfred Letourneau*



Elizabeth Shea



Sylvia Hamilton

Howard O. Williams, Alfred Christian, Town Clerk Albert Morin and his wife Margaret. Parade judges were Elizabeth Yates McGreal, Kennett Jewett, Col. David Crocker, Jaffrey historian Alice E. E. Lehtinen, Bicentennial chairman Glenn and Catherine M. Hunt.

High bidder at the Bicentennial Coin Auction was George Sirois. He paid \$210 for coin #1, and he also was the grand-prize winner in the Brothers of the Brush beard contest.

On a sad note, Mrs. Winnifred Millar, 86, died Saturday, August 18, Bicentennial Parade Day, in a fire that destroyed her home at the old trotting park on Lake Contoocook.

The following people donated countless hours of unselfish dedication for the success of Jaffrey's Bicentennial:



Brothers of the Brush

Steering committee: Glenn Hunt, chairman, Homer Belletete, George Gordon, secretary, Patricia Sawtelle, treasurer; finance, Gerald DeGrandpre, chairman, Albert Morin; parade, Arthur Faford, chairman, Robert Bussiere, Andrew Bussiere; promotions, Randy P. Cournoyer, Jr.; business committee, Philip LaBrie, chairman, Thomas Duval; commemorative booklet, Dr. Charles H. Hamilton, chairman, Donald Gordon, Evelyn Ruffle, Albert Morin, Ann Royce, Frederick Richardson; commemorative coin, Nancy Moore, chairman, Lena Thoin, Suzanne Pierce, M. Catherine Richardson; traffic, Arthur Rivard, chairman; Brothers of the Brush, Robert Lawn, chairman, Richard Pickford, Walter Hautanen, Clifton Goulet, Robert Oja; bicentennial project committee, Bayard Sawyer, chairman, Vernon Bean, Anne Gordon, Marion Mack Johnson, Francis LaFreniere, Robert Pettegrew, Donald Proctor, Francis X. Quinlan, Irma Royce, and Richard Sawyer.

THE JAFFREY FLAG

Not every town can boast of having a flag of its very own, but Jaffrey does have such a banner. It is unclear how we came to have

one, but we do know that in the early 1970s several people felt that the town should have its own flag.

Coburn Kidd did the research on the town seal as the motif for the flag. Albert Morin, then town clerk, and Randyl Cournoyer, Jr. approached Eleanor Lambert about making the flag, which she did. She placed the town seal in the center of a white field and added gold fringe to the edges.

The flag made its debut in the parade celebrating the nation's Bicentennial in July 1976. It was carried by two of Eleanor's daughters, Patricia and Kathryn Lambert. It is currently kept at the Jaffrey Civic Center.



Jaffrey Bicentennial flag